Enhancing fish habitats in ports

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Pleased to meet you

Fish and ports:
• conflicting or complimentary?

Biologists and engineering:
• conflicting or complimentary?
IF WE PROVIDE A HABITAT,
LET’S MAKE IT A GOOD ONE
Why ports and fish?

- Delta’s host most mainports around the world
- More than mere coincidence
Why fish and ports?

- Delta’s also form biological ‘mainports’
- Ports as the place to be
Why consider fish in ports?

Of course:

- EU Water Framework Directive
- EU Habitats Directive / N2000
- EU Eel Directive

Just to mention a few...

On the other hand, why shouldn’t we?
What should we do?

• Yes, of course we can compensate
• But should we?
• Can’t we add (ecological) value to our ports?
• Sure, but this requires our will
• And an understanding of fish
Why ports and fish?

- Ports and navigation channels as WE know them:

- But from the fish perspective?
Fish biomass (kg/ha)

- Amer
- Hollandsch Diep
- Haringvliet
- Lek
- Noord
- Nieuwe Maas
- Nieuwe Waterweg
- Oude Maas
- Wantij

Ceda
Central Dredging Association
At home in the Port of Rotterdam

- Function for wide variety of fish resides
- Fish population increases manyfold in winter!
Fish at home in the ports

• Fish are there to stay!
• So, let’s make the best of it

• What’s reasonable?
• How far should we go in ports?
Case Rijnhaven/Maashaven

- High quality sustainable re-development
- Impulse to the Port of Rotterdam
- Enhancing habitat quality for fish
IF WE PROVIDE A HABITAT, LET’S MAKE IT A GOOD ONE
Statements

• All we can do to create/enhance natural values in ports, we should
• Ports have an economic purpose, full stop.